

Docket No. 56710 (70801)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Takamori, et al

Serial No.:

10/002,952

Examiner: M. J. Angebranndt

Filed:

November 15, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1756

For:

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Mail Stop: AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Applicants are in receipt of the Final Office Action dated May 20, 2004 and request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks filed herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.